

Attachment 8



City of Alexandria, Virginia
301 King Street, Suite 2300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314



Justin M. Wilson
Mayor

Office: 703.746.4500
Fax: 703.838.6433
justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov

August 12, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators McConnell and Schumer:

The City of Alexandria joins the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and the U.S. Census Bureau in their request to include language in the next Senate COVID-19 relief package (HEALS Act) to extend the statutory reporting deadlines for the 2020 Census and provide adequate funding to address continued 2020 Census challenges brought about by the pandemic (see attached letter).

Given the difficulties encountered in reaching all of our residents due to the pandemic, the recent decision to end all counting efforts for the 2020 Census by September 30 seriously jeopardizes the City's and Census Bureau's efforts to ensure a complete count in Alexandria. Failure to count all residents in our city, most especially historically undercounted populations, threatens representational democracy, equity and our ability to fund essential programs and services our community relies on for the next ten years.

As stated in the attached letter, the House of Representatives has approved an extension of the 2020 Census operations as part of its most recent COVID-19 relief package and we respectfully request that the Senate agree to a Census extension provision in its next COVID-19 relief package (HEALS Act). Doing so will enable an appropriate level of outreach and enumeration activities.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Justin M. Wilson".

Justin M. Wilson
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Mark Warner, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Tim Kaine, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Members of City Council
Mark B. Jinks, City Manager
Sarah Graham Taylor, Legislative Director